



2013 - 2017 North Dakota State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan





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The mission of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department is to provide and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities through diverse parks and programs that conserve the state's natural diversity.

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State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

This 2013-2017 North Dakota State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) was prepared by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. It was financed in part by a planning grant from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, under the provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965 (PL 88-578, as amended).

Two additional components were completed as part of the SCORP development process:

- *Recreational Trail Needs*
- *Wetlands Priorities*

Executive Summary

Outdoor recreation plays a significant role in the quality of life of North Dakotans. Outdoor recreation improves the health and well-being of the state's citizens, promotes the conservation of the land, and contributes to the state's economy as one of the primary drivers of tourism, North Dakota's third largest industry.

North Dakota Outdoor Recreation Planning and Funding

The *2013-2017 North Dakota State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* (SCORP), developed by the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD), is a guide for managing and developing North Dakota's non-consumptive outdoor recreation base.

User fees and taxes support North Dakota's outdoor recreation infrastructure, but grant programs at the federal, state, and local level are also critical in meeting the outdoor recreation demands of the state's citizens and visitors. Among the most important is the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which provides 50/50 matching grants through states to local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation sites and facilities.

North Dakota Outdoor Recreation Demand and Supply

North Dakota households and outdoor recreation providers were surveyed in 2012 to determine the demand for and supply of non-consumptive outdoor recreation in the state. More than one out of every two North Dakota households (55 percent) feel outdoor recreation is very important and 93 percent feel it is important.

Providers of outdoor recreation facilities in North Dakota include government agencies at the local, state, and federal levels, as well as nonprofit organizations. Overall, 57 percent of outdoor recreation providers report demand for facilities and activities exceeds supply for their users.



North Dakota Outdoor Recreation Implementation Plan

Findings from the surveys of North Dakota households and outdoor recreation providers clearly show the high level of interest in outdoor recreation in North Dakota, as well as the need to invest in the development, renovation, and maintenance of facilities. With finite resources available for outdoor recreation, it is critical to prioritize needs throughout the state. However, funding alone is not the answer.

Active partnerships are also essential to meeting the outdoor recreation needs of North Dakotans and visitors. At the core of the state’s parks and recreation community are local, state, federal, and nonprofit providers offering facilities and programs that support healthy, active lifestyles.

The NDPRD, with input from the state’s outdoor recreation stakeholders, has identified one overall goal and three supporting strategies to guide the management and development of North Dakota’s outdoor recreation base over the next five years.

Goal:

Enhance outdoor recreation across the state by educating and engaging North Dakotans to ensure diverse outdoor recreation opportunities are available to citizens and visitors.

Strategies:

- Educate North Dakotans about outdoor recreation.
- Engage North Dakotans in outdoor recreation.
- Enhance outdoor recreation opportunities in North Dakota.

The three strategies identified to achieve the goal are interdependent. They must be undertaken simultaneously to build momentum to increase the investment of resources in outdoor recreation in North Dakota that ultimately offers greater opportunities for participation.

The implementation plan includes outdoor recreation priorities for distributing LWCF and Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant funds in North Dakota from 2013 to 2017. The foremost priority for the LWCF is the acquisition of public parks and recreation land. Based on analysis of the demand for and supply of outdoor recreation facilities in North Dakota through household and provider surveys, categories of facilities are prioritized for funding at the state level.

Statewide Facility Priorities		
PRIMARY NEEDS	SECONDARY NEEDS	TERTIARY NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-Motorized Trails• Campgrounds• Playgrounds/Picnic Areas/Open Space Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pools/Beaches/Water Access• Sports Courts/Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Winter Sports Facilities• Motorized Trails

Regional priorities are also identified in the implementation plan according to eight legislatively determined planning regions.

Outdoor Recreation in North Dakota

The state of North Dakota is experiencing a time of rapid change, including expanding agriculture and energy development, which is impacting outdoor recreation. Providing accessible and affordable outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the state is increasingly important in the wake of these changes. The SCORP will guide the development of North Dakota’s outdoor recreation resources, ensuring North Dakota citizens and visitors continue to have the best possible outdoor recreation opportunities in the years to come.

Introduction

North Dakota is a state of diverse landscapes and distinct seasons that provide for abundant outdoor recreation opportunities. From hiking the Badlands in the west to kayaking the Red River in the east, North Dakota citizens and visitors have unlimited possibilities to experience the outdoors.

Outdoor recreation is a key component of North Dakota's quality of life, improving the health and well-being of its citizens and promoting the conservation of its land. Outdoor recreation also contributes significantly to the state's economy as one of the primary drivers of tourism, North Dakota's third largest industry.

Today, the state of North Dakota is experiencing a time of rapid change that is impacting outdoor recreation. An expanding agricultural base statewide, combined with fast-paced energy development in the west, has led to a strong state economy. However, these activities are also changing the landscape and affecting outdoor recreation opportunities. In addition to increased development, North Dakota's population is increasing and urbanizing, which brings challenges along with new opportunities. Providing accessible and affordable outdoor recreation throughout the state is increasingly important in the wake of these changes. A comprehensive plan for North Dakota's outdoor recreation resources is essential to ensuring North Dakota citizens and visitors continue to have the best possible outdoor recreation opportunities.

Outdoor Recreation Planning

Trails, playgrounds, picnic shelters, campgrounds, swimming pools, and ball fields are just a few of the hundreds of non-consumptive outdoor recreation facilities provided by local, state, federal, and nonprofit providers across North Dakota. Development of these facilities has been aided by local, state, and federal resources.

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) is charged with developing long-range policies and plans for the state's outdoor recreation resources. As part of this responsibility, the NDPRD must prepare a State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) every five years.

The 2013–2017 SCORP marks the state's ninth update of this publication, first prepared by the NDPRD in 1970. Through the SCORP development process, the NDPRD evaluates the demand for and supply of outdoor recreation resources and facilities. Then, with input from outdoor recreation stakeholders, the NDPRD sets statewide and regional priorities for outdoor recreation, which are used to determine the allocation of financial resources, including grant funds. The SCORP establishes a guide for managing and developing North Dakota's recreation base – from land acquisition to resource development – over a five-year period.



Federal and State Planning Requirements

Federal Law

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (Public Law 88-578, as amended) was enacted “... to assist in preserving, developing and assuring accessibility to all citizens of the United States of America of present and future generations and visitors ... such quality and quantity of outdoor recreation resources as may be available and are necessary and desirable for individual active participation in such recreation and to strengthen the health and vitality of the citizens of the United States by (1) providing funds for and authorizing Federal assistance to the States in planning, acquisition and development of needed land and water areas and facilities...”

Further, as outlined in Section 6(d) of the Act, “A comprehensive statewide outdoor recreation plan shall be required prior to the consideration by the Secretary of financial assistance for acquisition or development projects.”

To maintain eligibility for the Recreational Trails Program, the Federal Highway Administration, the program’s administrator, requires states that receive grant funding to complete a SCORP which addresses recreational trails.

State Law

According to North Dakota Century Code (NDCC), the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) shall “plan and coordinate government programs encouraging the full development and preservation of existing and future parks, outdoor recreation areas, and nature preserves.”

More specifically, NDCC 55-08-03.1 requires the NDPRD to:

- “Undertake the development of broad recreation policies for the state as a whole and a long-range plan for their implementation.
- Initiate a continuing appraisal of the total state recreation resources, potentials, and needs and the adequacy of current efforts to meet the demands.
- Provide for the coordination and appraisal of related programs administered by all levels of government and by private enterprise.”

Outdoor Recreation Funding

While user fees and state and local taxes support North Dakota’s outdoor recreation infrastructure, key grant programs are essential to meeting the outdoor recreation demands of the state’s citizens and visitors.

Federal Support

In 1965, the State Assistance Program of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was created by Congress to stimulate a nationwide action program to assist in preserving, developing, and assuring all United States citizens and visitors have access to quality outdoor recreation resources. It is funded by Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas revenues. The LWCF program provides funds to states and through states to local governments through 50/50 matching grants for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation sites and facilities.

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a program through which states can acquire 80/20 matching federal grant money for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trails. Established by the federal highway bill, the RTP is an assistance program of the Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration. The program provides funding from the Federal Highway Trust Fund in acknowledgment of off-road recreational fuel use.

Completion of the SCORP every five years is required to maintain eligibility for the LWCF and RTP grant programs.

State Support

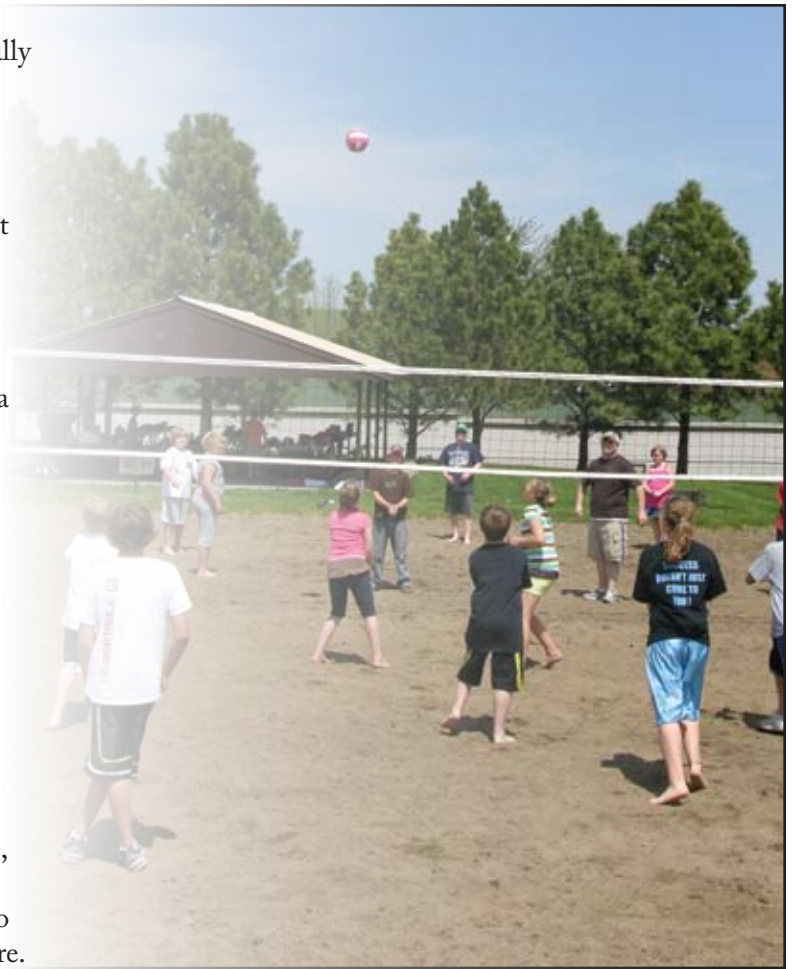
Two additional state programs support the development of outdoor recreation resources in North Dakota. Funded through state Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) registration fees, the OHV Recreation Grant Program (OHVR) is an 80/20 matching grant program offered through the NDPRD for construction, improvement, or renovation of OHV recreation facilities throughout North Dakota, including trail signage and new development or renovation of OHV trails, bridges, trailhead facilities, and trail linkages.

The state Outdoor Recreation Grant Program (ORGP) is modeled after the federal LWCF program and funded periodically through legislative appropriation. The 50/50 matching grant program provides funds to political subdivisions for the development or renovation of outdoor recreation facilities.

Other state agencies provide grants and additional resources that support the development and promotion of outdoor recreation opportunities, including but not limited to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, North Dakota Forest Service, North Dakota Department of Transportation, North Dakota Department of Commerce Tourism Division, and North Dakota Council on the Arts.

Further, local government entities, nonprofit organizations, and foundations support outdoor recreation infrastructure in North Dakota, including but not limited to USTA Northern, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District, and local sports associations.

The North Dakota Recreation & Park Association (NDRPA) is a membership organization dedicated to advancing parks and recreation for an enhanced quality of life in North Dakota. Member services consist of training including an annual conference, a quarterly newsletter and monthly e-updates, an awards program, advocacy and public policy, technical assistance, and networking opportunities. NDRPA serves as a resource to the field and advocates for dedicated state and federal funding to support North Dakota's public parks and recreation infrastructure.



A 50-Year Legacy for Outdoor Recreation in North Dakota

The year 2015 marks the 50th year of the LWCF program. The NDPRD will also celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2015.

The NDPRD Legacy

The mission of the NDPRD is to provide and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities through diverse parks and programs that conserve the state's natural diversity.

The Department is committed to family-focused experiences provided through a spirit of exemplary customer service enhancing North Dakota's quality of life. Throughout its history, the NDPRD has provided dedicated, ethical, and accountable public service in the delivery of programs and management of natural resources for the people and visitors to North Dakota.

The LWCF Legacy

Over the years, the LWCF has successfully promoted statewide recreation planning by providing states and their citizens with new tools to analyze recreation needs and alternatives in a systematic and responsive way.

Most importantly, the LWCF has supported the acquisition and development of land and facilities that will be maintained perpetually for public outdoor recreation use in all states across the country.

North Dakota Outdoor Recreation Demand and Supply

To determine the demand for and supply of non-consumptive outdoor recreation in North Dakota, two distinct surveys were undertaken in 2012. First, a survey of North Dakota households was conducted to assess interest in outdoor recreation activities and to identify the perceived quantity and quality of facilities for these activities. Second, a survey of North Dakota outdoor recreation providers was completed to assess perceived demand for various facilities, as well as inventory the quantity and condition of such facilities, and also to solicit input on future needs.

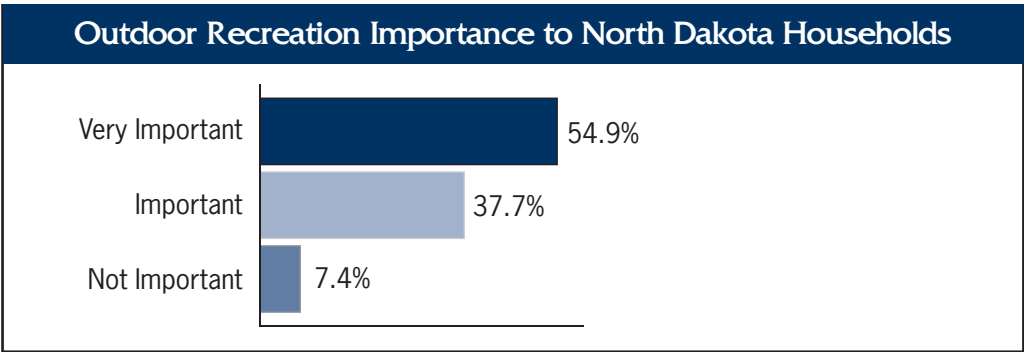
Survey Methodology

For the household survey, 805 North Dakotans over the age of 18 were surveyed by telephone in March and April 2012, resulting in a 95 percent confidence level with a maximum margin of error of ± 3.5 percent.

For the provider survey, 63 percent of North Dakota's 303 hundred outdoor recreation providers (192) completed the mail survey in March and April 2012, resulting in a 95 percent confidence level with a maximum margin of error of ± 4.3 percent.

North Dakotans' Perspectives on Outdoor Recreation

More than one out of every two North Dakota households (55 percent) feel outdoor recreation is very important and 93 percent feel it is important. A slightly higher proportion of those under 55 years of age (64 percent) and from towns with 1,000 people or more (58 percent) feel outdoor recreation is very important. The proportion of North Dakota households that feel outdoor recreation is very important increases as both education and income levels increase.



Levels of Amenities at Facilities

Parks, campgrounds, trails, and other facilities have different levels of amenities or support facilities.

- Modern: Amenities such as restrooms, electricity, and running water are available.
- Semi-modern: Limited amenities such as restrooms without electricity or running water are available.
- Primitive: No amenities are available.

North Dakota households are most interested in the following broad categories of outdoor recreation activities offered at parks, sports complexes, or recreation areas:

- Going to a park, natural area, or green space to play, have fun, use a playground, enjoy nature, or relax (63 percent).
- Using trails for walking, running, bicycling, or horseback riding (58 percent).
- Picnicking (57 percent).
- Camping (55 percent).
- Playing a sport (48 percent).
- Swimming (48 percent).
- Skiing, ice skating, sledding, or similar winter activities (45 percent).

The specific types of activities which North Dakota households are most interested in include:

- Visiting a modern park or natural area (53 percent).
- Going to a park area or green space to play games, toss Frisbee, or relax (50 percent).
- Picnicking at a family site (49 percent) or group shelter (42 percent).
- Camping in a modern campground (48 percent).
- Using a paved walking, jogging, or bicycling trail (47 percent).
- Using a modern trail (45 percent).
- Playing at a playground (41 percent).



North Dakota Households Willing to Travel More than 50 Miles for Activities

Camping	72%
Canoeing or kayaking	60%
Riding on snowmobile trails	50%
Golfing	35%

Of those North Dakota households interested in participating in a particular outdoor recreation activity, the following facilities rate the highest (excellent or very good in both quality and quantity):

- Golf courses (56 percent).
- Baseball fields (51 percent).
- Park areas or green spaces to play games, toss Frisbee, or relax (50 percent).
- Softball fields (47 percent).
- Playgrounds (46 percent).

In contrast, the following facilities rank lowest (fair or poor in both quality and quantity):

- Downhill skiing or snowboarding areas (61 percent).
- Paddling trails for canoeing or kayaking (59 percent).
- Spray pools, wave pools, or other types of specialty pools (59 percent).
- Pet exercise areas within a park (59 percent).
- Exercise trails with exercise machines or equipment at stations (56 percent).

North Dakota Providers' Perspectives on Outdoor Recreation

Providers of outdoor recreation facilities in North Dakota include government agencies at the local, state, and federal levels, as well as nonprofit organizations. Forty-one percent of reporting outdoor recreation providers serve a geographic area with less than 1,000 people. Many providers do not have any full-time employees.

Overall, 57 percent of outdoor recreation providers report demand for facilities and activities exceeds supply for their users. Numerous facilities have more than 20 percent of providers reporting demand exceeds supply. The facilities for which the highest proportion say demand exceeds supply include:

- Modern campgrounds (38 percent), including RV/camper sites (37 percent), RV dump stations (25 percent), and group campsites (24 percent).
- Modern parks and recreation areas (33 percent).
- Playgrounds (32 percent).
- Multi-use paved (29 percent) and unpaved (26 percent) trails.
- Group picnic shelters (26 percent) and family picnic sites (25 percent).
- Off-Highway Vehicle (ATV/dirt bike) trails (21 percent).

The largest proportion of providers rate the condition of most of their facilities as only adequate (moderate improvement needed) or poor (must improve greatly or replace). Twenty-seven percent of providers report general improvement of existing facilities is particularly important. The outdoor facilities providers report most in need of improvement or expansion to better meet the needs of their users include the following:

- Parks and green space (36 percent).
- Campgrounds (32 percent).
- Sport facilities (27 percent).
- Non-motorized trails (23 percent).

Further, providers report improving, expanding, or adding the following amenities would most enhance users’ experiences at their facilities:

- Bathrooms or restrooms in parks, recreation areas, or natural areas (57 percent).
- General condition/maintenance of the grounds and facilities (57 percent).
- Electricity/water hookups (39 percent), shower houses (35 percent), and RV dump stations (28 percent) in campgrounds.
- Walkways between facilities or activity areas (37 percent).
- Parking areas in parks, recreation areas, or natural areas (27 percent).

The majority of providers report a minimum of a 4 percent annual increase in operating and capital expenditures is needed for the next five years to keep pace with anticipated needs. In fact, the total additional amount needed for 123 of the providers to fulfill their current unmet capital needs in the next five years is \$102 million.

Provider Increase in Expenditures to Meet Needs 2013-2017		
INCREASE IN EXPENDITURES	OPERATING	CAPITAL
No annual increase needed	3.6%	5.2%
1% to 3% increase per year	13.5%	13.0%
4% to 6% increase per year	28.1%	20.3%
7% to 9% increase per year	12.0%	10.4%
10% or more increase per year	27.1%	31.3%



North Dakota Outdoor Recreation Implementation Plan

Ninety-three percent of North Dakota households say outdoor recreation is important to them. In addition, 57 percent of North Dakota's outdoor recreation providers report that demand for outdoor recreation facilities exceeds supply and that the condition and maintenance of facilities is important to enhance user experiences.

These findings from the surveys of North Dakota households and outdoor recreation providers clearly show the high level of interest in outdoor recreation in North Dakota, as well as the need to invest in the development, renovation, and maintenance of facilities. With finite resources available for outdoor recreation, it is critical to prioritize needs throughout the state. However, funding alone is not the answer.

Active partnerships are also essential to meeting the outdoor recreation needs of North Dakotans and visitors. At the core of the state's parks and recreation community are local, state, federal, and nonprofit providers offering facilities and programs that support healthy, active lifestyles.

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD), with input from the state's outdoor recreation stakeholders, has identified one overall goal and three supporting strategies to guide the management and development of North Dakota's outdoor recreation base over the next five years.

Goal:

Enhance outdoor recreation across the state by educating and engaging North Dakotans to ensure diverse outdoor recreation opportunities are available to citizens and visitors.

Strategies:

- Educate North Dakotans about outdoor recreation.
- Engage North Dakotans in outdoor recreation.
- Enhance outdoor recreation opportunities in North Dakota.

The three strategies identified to achieve the goal of “enhancing outdoor recreation across the state by educating and engaging North Dakotans to ensure diverse outdoor recreation opportunities are available to citizens and visitors” are interdependent. One strategy does not come first nor automatically lead into another. Rather, all three must be undertaken simultaneously in order to build momentum to increase the investment of resources in outdoor recreation in North Dakota that ultimately offers greater opportunities for participation.

This implementation plan includes outdoor recreation priorities for distributing Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Recreational Trails Program (RTP) allocations in North Dakota from 2013 to 2017.



Strategy: Educate North Dakotans about outdoor recreation.

- Market the availability of outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Promote the positive impacts of outdoor recreation.

In order for North Dakotans to actively engage in outdoor recreation and support the necessary infrastructure for activity, people must have a clear understanding of the diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities available to them, as well as an awareness of the numerous positive impacts resulting from parks and recreation facilities.

The primary responsibility for marketing opportunities rests with outdoor recreation providers, such as the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, local park districts, federal agencies such as the National Park Service and United States Forest Service, and recreation associations. The North Dakota Department of Commerce Tourism Division, along with local Convention and Visitors Bureaus, also plays a key role in marketing outdoor recreation across the state, particularly to potential out-of-state visitors. Further, health and wellness and physical activity advocates, such as the North Dakota Department of Health and the healthcare system, are essential partners in promoting outdoor recreation in North Dakota.

The positive impacts of outdoor recreation are numerous: building healthy communities by providing places to improve physical and mental health and bring people together; contributing to the economy by supporting tourism, employment, and higher property values; and protecting our natural world by conserving the diversity of our landscapes and the variety of life, along with supporting clean air and water.

In the next five years, the state will educate North Dakotans about outdoor recreation by encouraging outdoor recreation providers to partner with each other and those outside the parks and recreation community, such as government agencies, businesses, and nonprofit organizations, to communicate the opportunities for and value of outdoor recreation.

Strategy: Engage North Dakotans in outdoor recreation.

- As participants.
- As elected officials and professionals.
- As volunteers.
- As advocates.

North Dakotans have the opportunity to engage in outdoor recreation in a number of ways. The most fundamental way for North Dakotans to engage is as participants, taking advantage of the numerous recreation opportunities around the state to be active, get healthy, and play. Key to increasing the number of outdoor recreation participants in the state is ensuring recreation facilities and programs are both accessible and affordable.



As providers of outdoor recreation, elected officials and parks and recreation professionals must provide leadership and support the development of parks, natural areas, and facilities that offer creative recreation and leisure opportunities to citizens and visitors. In this area, the establishment of active partnerships that engage organizations and people from diverse sectors is essential, as are opportunities to share knowledge, experience, and best practices.

North Dakotans who engage as participants in outdoor recreation should be invited to become more active as volunteers and ultimately as advocates. Volunteers are needed to contribute their time, expertise, and funds to help develop and maintain outdoor recreation facilities and programs because providers do not have all of the resources necessary to meet the outdoor recreation needs of North Dakota citizens and visitors. To ensure the long-term sustainability of outdoor recreation in North Dakota, advocates are essential to building a strong stewardship ethic across the state and uniting allies from all sectors of communities, including policymakers, business leaders, and the public.

In the next five years, the state, through the leadership of elected officials and parks and recreation professionals, will engage North Dakotans in outdoor recreation as participants, volunteers, and advocates, thus building a stronger, more connected community committed to ensuring quality outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the state.

Strategy: Enhance outdoor recreation opportunities in North Dakota.

- Conduct ongoing research to determine the demand for and supply of outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the state.
- Support and facilitate planning at all levels to ensure diverse outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Secure funding to develop outdoor recreation opportunities at the federal, state, and local level.
- Maintain and build a robust outdoor recreation infrastructure through the acquisition of land; conservation of parks, open space, natural areas, and wetlands; and renovation and development of parks and facilities as prioritized.

Research about North Dakota's outdoor recreation needs provides the foundation for planning, funding, and developing the state's outdoor recreation infrastructure. Ongoing research by providers and partners should be conducted on a variety of issues, including the economic impact of outdoor recreation, barriers to participation, and supply and demand for parks and facilities.

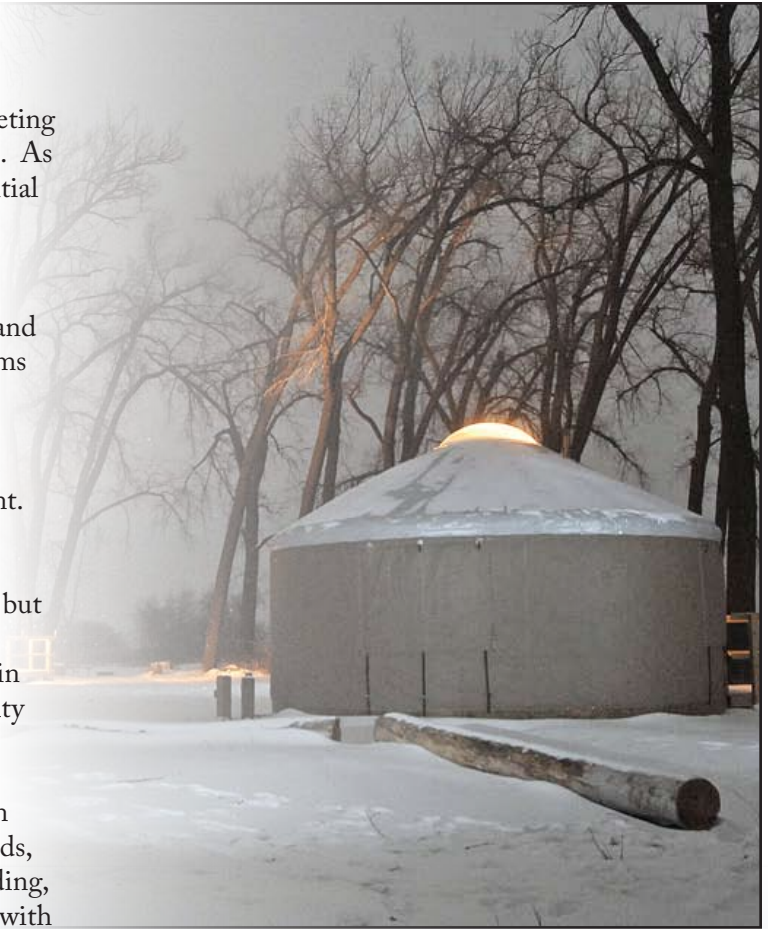


While the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) outlines an overall goal and strategies for North Dakota's recreation base, planning at all levels is critical to meeting the outdoor recreation needs of the state's citizens and visitors. As with all strategies, coordinated planning with partners is essential at the local, regional, and state level.

Funding for outdoor recreation comes from a variety of mechanisms, including state and local taxes, user fees, grants, and contributions. Diversification and expansion of funding streams by providers is important to maximizing outdoor recreation opportunities, and strong advocates are essential to securing dedicated government funding, foundation grants, and private contributions for infrastructure and programming development.

A robust outdoor recreation infrastructure in North Dakota depends not only on the acquisition and conservation of land, but also the development and maintenance of parks, natural areas, and facilities. Prioritization for this infrastructure is outlined in the section entitled "North Dakota Outdoor Recreation Facility Priorities."

In the next five years, the state will enhance outdoor recreation opportunities in North Dakota by conducting research on needs, supporting and facilitating planning at all levels, securing funding, and maintaining and building a robust outdoor infrastructure with the support of educated and engaged North Dakotans.



North Dakota Outdoor Recreation Facility Priorities

The foremost priority for the LWCF, the largest source of publicly-supported grants for outdoor recreation in North Dakota, is the acquisition of public parks and recreation land. Further, based on analysis of the demand for and supply of outdoor recreation facilities in North Dakota through household and provider surveys, categories of facilities are prioritized for funding at the state level, as well as in each of the eight legislatively determined planning regions.

Comparing North Dakota households’ interest in different types of outdoor recreation activities with their rating of the number and condition of facilities for such activities (excellent/very good versus fair/poor) provides a strength-weakness grid. Those facilities identified as a primary weakness, meaning there is a high level of interest in these activities but the overall number and condition of facilities is rated fair or poor, receive a higher ranking in the statewide and regional priorities. Providers’ ranking of need and condition of existing facilities is also factored into the overall prioritization.

Statewide Facility Priorities		
PRIMARY NEEDS	SECONDARY NEEDS	TERTIARY NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-Motorized Trails• Campgrounds• Playgrounds/Picnic Areas/Open Space Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pools/Beaches/Water Access• Sports Courts/Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Winter Sports Facilities• Motorized Trails

Primary Needs

Fifty-eight percent of North Dakota households are interested in using trails for walking, running, bicycling, or horseback riding, while 29 percent of providers report demand exceeds supply for paved and 26 percent for unpaved multi-use trails. Modern and semi-modern trails, as well as unpaved non-motorized trails, are primary weaknesses statewide. Thirty percent of providers with unpaved multi-use trails report some are in poor condition, while the same is true of 20 percent of providers with unpaved mountain biking trails.

Camping is of interest to 55 percent of households, and nearly half of households are interested in a modern campground with electricity and running water. Thirty-eight percent of providers report demand for modern campgrounds exceeds supply. Modern campgrounds, along with camper/RV campsites, group campsites, and rental cabins, are primary weaknesses in North Dakota.



Sixty-three percent of North Dakota households are interested in going to a park, natural area, or green space to play on a playground, have a picnic, enjoy nature, or relax, with 53 percent interested in visiting a modern park. Playing on playgrounds is of interest to 41 percent of households statewide. Twenty-one percent of providers with playgrounds report some are in poor condition, while one in three report demand exceeds supply. Picnicking is of interest to 57 percent of North Dakota households, while roughly one in four providers report demand exceeds supply for group picnic shelters and family picnic sites. Twenty-four percent of providers with amphitheaters report some are in poor condition.

Secondary Needs

Swimming outdoors is of interest to 48 percent of North Dakota households, while swimming beaches on lakes or rivers and swimming pools are primary weaknesses statewide. Almost one in four providers with swimming pools report some are in poor condition.

Playing a sport outdoors (other than for a school team) is of interest to 48 percent of North Dakota households. Providers with the following facilities report some are in poor condition: 31 percent with tennis courts, 28 percent with horseshoe pits, 25 percent with track facilities, and 22 percent with baseball fields.

Tertiary Needs

Forty-five percent of households statewide are interested in winter activities such as skiing, ice skating, and sledding, and sledding or tubing areas are primary weaknesses. Half of providers with ski/snowboard slopes report some are in poor condition.

Twenty-one percent of providers report demand exceeds supply for Off-Highway Vehicle (ATV/dirt bike) trails, while one in three providers with such trails report some are in poor condition.

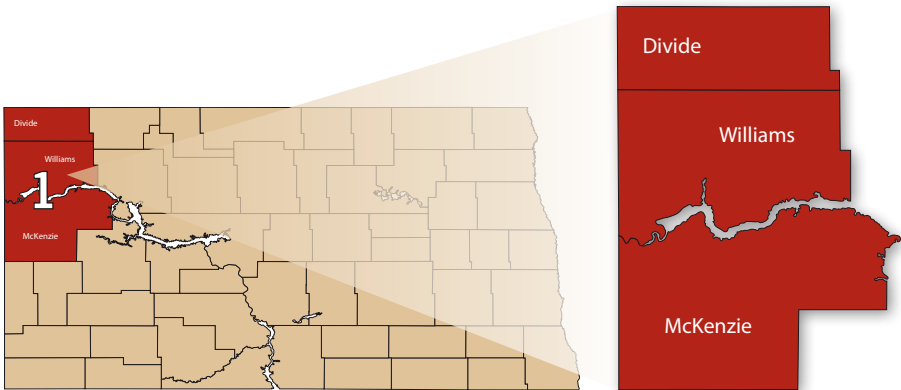
North Dakota providers also report maintenance of outdoor recreation facilities and availability of support facilities are important in enhancing the user experience, with the following identified as important by a significant percentage of providers:

- Condition/maintenance of the grounds and facilities (57 percent).
- Bathrooms or restrooms in parks, recreation areas, or natural areas (57 percent).
- Electricity/water hookups in campgrounds (39 percent).
- Walkways between facilities or activity areas (37 percent).
- Shower houses in campgrounds (35 percent).
- RV dump stations in campgrounds (28 percent).
- Parking areas in parks, recreation areas, or natural areas (27 percent).



Region One Facility Priorities

Of all eight regions, Region One reports the highest level of overall need with more than three out of four providers reporting demand for outdoor recreation facilities exceeds supply. Ninety-one percent of North Dakota households in this region say outdoor recreation is important.



PRIMARY NEEDS	SECONDARY NEEDS	TERTIARY NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Campgrounds• Playgrounds/Picnic Areas/Open Space Parks• Non-Motorized Trails• Sports Courts/Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pools/Beaches/Water Access• Shooting Sport Facilities• Winter Sports Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Golf Courses• Canoeing/Kayaking Facilities• Specialty Facilities• Motorized Trails

Primary Needs

Camping is of interest to 60 percent of North Dakota households in Region One, particularly in modern campgrounds, with a camper or RV, and at group campsites. Facilities for all three of these types of camping are primary weaknesses in the region. Providers report demand exceeds supply for many camping facilities: RV/camper sites (62 percent), modern campgrounds (46 percent), semi-modern campgrounds (39 percent), group campsites (39 percent), tent sites (31 percent), cabin rental sites (31 percent), and primitive campgrounds (23 percent). Providers with the following facilities report some are in poor condition: 67 percent with primitive campgrounds, 40 percent with RV dump stations, 33 percent with group campsites, and 25 percent with modern and semi-modern campgrounds.

Sixty-six percent of households in the region enjoy going to a park, natural area, or green space to play on a playground, have a picnic, enjoy nature, or relax, with 54 percent interested in visiting a modern park. Primary weaknesses in Region One include park areas or green spaces, natural areas, family picnic sites and group picnic shelters, and playgrounds. Fifty-four percent of providers report demand exceeds supply for playgrounds, and half of providers with playgrounds report some are in poor condition. Thirty-one percent of providers say demand exceeds supply for modern general purpose parks and recreation areas, while 39 percent say the same of family picnic sites and group picnic shelters. Twenty-nine percent of providers with primitive parks report some are in poor condition.

Using trails for walking, running, bicycling, or horseback riding is of interest to 55 percent of North Dakota households in Region One, with 47 percent interested in modern trails and 46 percent in paved trails. Forty-three percent are interested in using unpaved trails for hiking compared to 41 percent for walking, running, or bicycling. Primary weaknesses include modern and semi-modern trails; paved and unpaved walking, running, and bicycling trails; and unpaved hiking trails. Thirty-one percent of providers report demand exceeds supply for paved and unpaved multi-use trails, while more than one out of five say the same for horseback riding trails. One-third of providers with unpaved multi-use trails, unpaved hiking trails, and primitive trails report some are in poor condition.

Fifty-four percent of Region One households are interested in playing sports outdoors (other than for a school team). Thirty-one percent of providers report demand exceeds supply for volleyball courts and horseshoe pits. Providers with the following facilities report some are in poor condition: 67 percent with baseball fields, 50 percent with volleyball courts, 29 percent with basketball courts, 25 percent with softball fields, and 20 percent with tennis courts.

Secondary Needs

Swimming outdoors is of interest to 48 percent of North Dakota households in Region One, with 45 percent interested in swimming beaches on lakes or rivers, 44 percent in swimming pools, and 41 percent in specialty pools. These facilities are all primary weaknesses in the region. Two-thirds of providers with swimming pools report some are in poor condition, while one-third say the same of swimming beaches.

Forty-eight percent of households are interested in using outdoor rifle or pistol ranges, and these facilities are primary weaknesses. Twenty-three percent of providers report demand exceeds supply for rifle, pistol, trap, or skeet ranges and archery ranges. Half of providers with outdoor rifle/pistol ranges report some are in poor condition.

Half of households in the region are interested in skiing, ice skating, sledding, or similar outdoor winter activities, with primary weaknesses being sledding or tubing areas. Twenty-three percent of providers report demand exceeds supply for cross-country skiing trails and ice rinks.

Tertiary Needs

Golfing is of interest to 41 percent of North Dakota households in Region One, and golf courses are identified as primary weaknesses. Half of providers with outdoor driving ranges report some are in poor condition.

Twenty-three percent of providers report demand exceeds supply for launch ramps and docks used for canoeing and kayaking. One out of three providers with launch ramps report some are in poor condition.

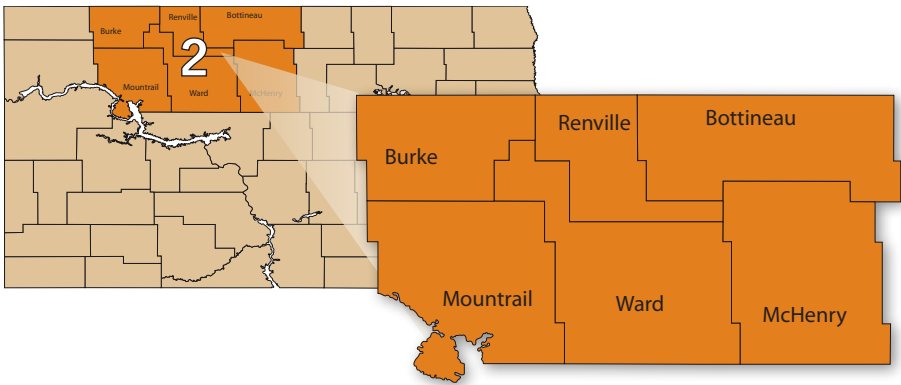
Demand exceeds supply for skateboard parks, according to 39 percent of the region's providers.

Twenty-three percent of providers report demand exceeds supply for Off-Highway Vehicle (ATV/dirt bike) trails.



Region Two Facility Priorities

Ninety-seven percent of North Dakota households in Region Two say outdoor recreation is important, while 60 percent of providers report demand for outdoor recreation facilities exceeds supply.



PRIMARY NEEDS	SECONDARY NEEDS	TERTIARY NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-Motorized Trails• Campgrounds• Playgrounds/Picnic Areas/Open Space Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canoeing/Kayaking Facilities• Winter Sports Facilities• Pools/Beaches/Water Access• Sports Courts/Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Golf Courses• Motorized Trails• Specialty Facilities

Primary Needs

Sixty-eight percent of North Dakota households in Region Two are interested in using trails for walking, running, bicycling, or horseback riding, with 56 percent interested in modern trails and 47 percent in semi-modern. Fifty-five percent are interested in paved compared to 47 percent in unpaved walking, jogging, or bicycling trails. Unpaved hiking trails are of interest to 52 percent of households in the region. All of these trail types are primary weaknesses. Providers report demand exceeds supply for unpaved (24 percent) and paved (20 percent) multi-use trails. Providers with trails report some are in poor condition: 50 percent with unpaved mountain biking, 43 percent with unpaved multi-use, 33 percent with paved multi-use, 33 percent with unpaved hiking, 33 percent with modern, and 20 percent with primitive.

Camping is of interest to 66 percent of North Dakota households in this region, with 58 percent interested in modern campgrounds. Fifty-four percent are interested in using a camper or RV compared with 40 percent in renting cabins. Group campsites are of interest to 48 percent and are primary weaknesses. Sixty percent of providers say the demand for modern campgrounds exceeds supply. Demand exceeding supply carries over into other facilities as well: RV/camper sites (52 percent), RV dump stations (36 percent), group campsites (32 percent), semi-modern campgrounds (28 percent), and tent sites (28 percent).

Seventy-two percent of North Dakota households in Region Two are interested in going to a park, natural area, or green space to play on a playground, enjoy nature, or relax, while 66 percent are interested in picnicking. Modern parks are of interest to 64 percent. Fifty-three percent of households are interested in playgrounds. Providers note demand exceeds supply for modern general purpose parks and recreation areas (40 percent), playgrounds (32 percent), group picnic shelters (28 percent), family picnic sites (24 percent), and multi-purpose open green space or playfields (20 percent). Twenty-two percent of providers with primitive parks and 20 percent with semi-modern parks and amphitheaters report some are in poor condition.

Secondary Needs

Forty-nine percent of Region Two households are interested in canoeing and kayaking, with 42 percent interested in using a designated paddling trail. Waterways and paddling trails for canoeing or kayaking are primary weaknesses. Providers with the following facilities report some in poor condition: 50 percent with paddling trails, 33 percent with launch ramps, and 25 percent with docks.

Winter activities such as skiing, ice skating, or sledding are of interest to 57 percent of North Dakota households in the region. Forty-three percent are interested in sledding or tubing on a snow hill, while sledding or tubing areas are primary weaknesses. A quarter of providers with outdoor ice rinks report some are in poor condition.

Sixty-three percent of households are interested in swimming outdoors, with 56 percent interested in swimming beaches on lakes or rivers, 54 percent in outdoor pools, and 43 percent in specialty pools. These three facilities are primary weaknesses.

Half of the region's households are interested in playing sports outdoors (other than for a school team). One out of three providers with baseball fields and one out of four with tennis courts report some are in poor condition.

Tertiary Needs

Forty-one percent of North Dakota households in Region Two are interested in playing golf. One-fifth of providers with nine-hole golf courses report some are in poor condition.

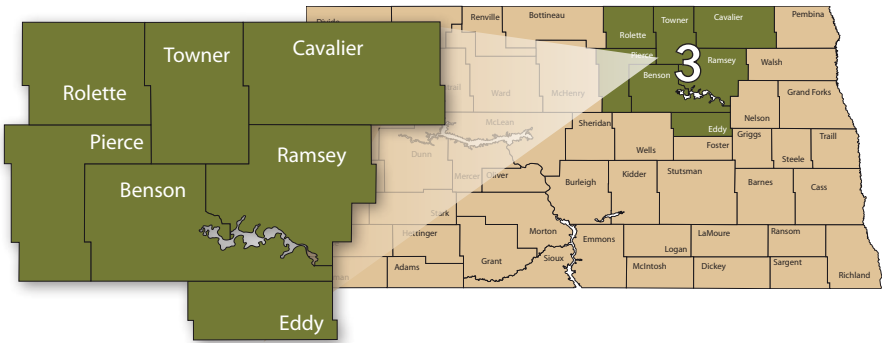
Demand exceeds supply for OHV (ATV/dirt bike) trails, according to 24 percent of providers, while 20 percent report the same of snowmobile trails.

Half of the providers with disc golf courses report some are in poor condition.



Region Three Facility Priorities

Sixty-three percent of providers in Region Three report demand for outdoor recreation facilities exceeds supply, while 91 percent of households say outdoor recreation is important.



PRIMARY NEEDS	SECONDARY NEEDS	TERTIARY NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Playgrounds/Picnic Areas/Open Space Parks• Campgrounds• Non-Motorized Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sports Courts/Fields• Pools/Beaches/Water Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canoeing/Kayaking Facilities• Winter Sports Facilities• Shooting Sport Facilities

Primary Needs

Sixty-five percent of Region Three households are interested in going to a park, natural area, or green space to use a playground, enjoy nature, or relax, with 58 percent interested in picnicking. Fifty-six percent of households are interested in visiting a modern park or natural area. Modern parks or natural areas, family picnic sites, group picnic shelters, and park areas and green spaces are primary weaknesses. A quarter of the region’s providers say demand exceeds supply for modern general purpose parks and recreation areas and family picnic sites. Twenty-five percent of providers with natural areas and 21 percent with playgrounds report some are in poor condition.

Camping is of interest to 61 percent of North Dakota households in Region Three, with 53 percent interested in modern campgrounds, 45 percent using a camper or RV, and 42 percent in renting a cabin. Modern campgrounds, camper or RV sites, rental cabins, group campsites, and tent campsites are primary weaknesses. The region’s providers say demand exceeds supply for RV/camper sites (31 percent), modern campgrounds (25 percent), and RV dump stations (25 percent).

Sixty-one percent of North Dakota households in the region are interested in using trails for walking, running, bicycling, or horseback riding. Fifty-three percent of households are interested in using paved versus 41 percent unpaved walking, jogging, or bicycling trails. Modern trails are of interest to 48 percent. Paved and unpaved walking, jogging, or bicycling trails; modern and semi-modern trails; and unpaved hiking trails are primary weaknesses in Region Three. One quarter of providers say demand exceeds supply for paved and unpaved multi-use trails. Half of providers with semi-modern trails report some are in poor condition.

Secondary Needs

Half of North Dakota households in Region Three are interested in playing a sport outdoors (other than for a school team). Volleyball courts are primary weaknesses. Providers with the following facilities report some are in poor condition: 50 percent with football fields; 40 percent with horseshoe pits; 25 percent with baseball fields, tennis courts, and volleyball courts; and 20 percent with basketball courts.



Almost half of households are interested in swimming outdoors, while swimming beaches on lakes or rivers are primary weaknesses. Half of providers with swimming beaches and 29 percent with swimming pools report some are in poor condition.

Tertiary Needs

Forty-one percent of the region's households are interested in canoeing or kayaking. Waterways for canoeing or kayaking are primary weaknesses in Region Three.

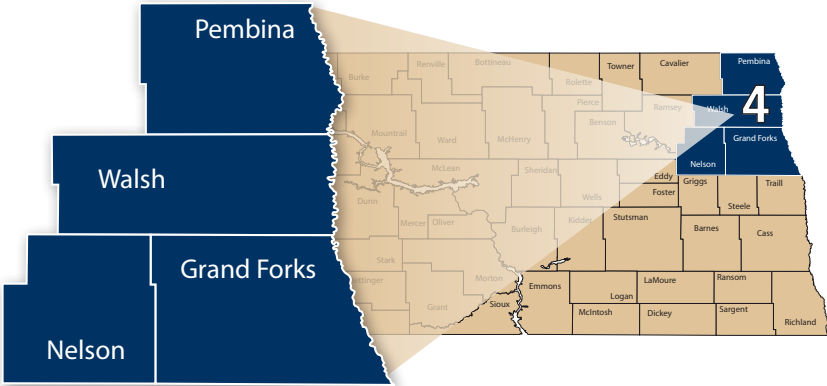
Winter activities such as skiing, ice skating, or sledding are of interest to 45 percent of North Dakota households in the region. One in three providers with ice rinks report some are in poor condition.

Outdoor rifle or pistol ranges are primary weaknesses in Region Three.



Region Four Facility Priorities

Ninety-three percent of North Dakota households in Region Four say outdoor recreation is important, while 61 percent of providers report demand for outdoor recreation facilities exceeds supply.



PRIMARY NEEDS	SECONDARY NEEDS	TERTIARY NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Campgrounds• Non-Motorized Trails• Playgrounds/Picnic Areas/Open Space Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pools/Beaches/Water Access• Sports Courts/Fields• Winter Sports Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Golf Courses• Specialty Facilities• Shooting Sport Facilities• Motorized Trails

Primary Needs

Fifty-five percent of North Dakota households in Region Four are interested in camping, with 52 percent interested in modern campgrounds, 42 percent in using a camper or RV, and 40 percent in renting a cabin. Rental cabins and group campsites are primary weaknesses. Providers note demand exceeds supply for RV/camper sites (35 percent), modern campgrounds (30 percent), RV dump stations (30 percent), group campsites (26 percent), tent sites (26 percent), semi-modern campgrounds (22 percent), and cabin rental sites (22 percent). Thirty-three percent of the region’s providers with primitive campgrounds and semi-modern campgrounds, 30 percent with tent sites, and 22 percent with RV dump stations report some are in poor condition.

Trails for walking, running, bicycling, or horseback riding are of interest to 63 percent of the region’s households, with 56 percent interested in modern trails and 53 percent in paved walking, jogging, or bicycling trails. Forty-six percent are interested in using semi-modern trails, along with 45 percent in unpaved walking, jogging, or bicycling trails and 43 percent in unpaved hiking trails. Primary weaknesses are semi-modern and unpaved hiking trails. According to providers, demand exceeds supply for paved multi-use trails (35 percent), unpaved multi-use trails (30 percent), unpaved hiking trails (26 percent), unpaved mountain biking trails (26 percent), exercise trails (22 percent), semi-modern trails (22 percent), and modern trails (22 percent). Half of providers with unpaved multi-use trails and unpaved hiking trails report some are in poor condition, while the same is true of 25 percent of providers with primitive trails and 22 percent with paved multi-use trails.

Seventy-three percent of Region Four households are interested in going to a park, natural area, or green space to use a playground, enjoy nature, or relax, with 65 percent interested in modern parks or natural areas. Fifty-eight percent are interested in picnicking, with 55 percent interested in family sites and 52 percent in group shelters. Playgrounds are of interest to 53 percent of households in the region. According to providers, demand exceeds supply for family picnic sites and group shelters (35 percent), playgrounds (35 percent), modern general purpose parks and recreation areas (30 percent), and natural areas (22 percent). Forty-six percent of providers with primitive parks or areas, 33 percent with amphitheaters, and 21 percent with group picnic shelters report some are in poor condition.

Secondary Needs

Swimming outdoors is of interest to 53 percent of Region Four households, with 45 percent interested in swimming pools and 43 percent in swimming beaches on lakes or rivers. Swimming beaches are primary weaknesses. Twenty-two percent of providers say demand exceeds supply for swimming pools and bathhouses. Half of providers with swimming pools and 38 percent with bathhouses report some are in poor condition.

Fifty-three percent of the region's households are interested in playing a sport outdoors (other than for a school team). Demand exceeds supply for basketball courts, softball fields, and horseshoe pits, according to 22 percent of providers. Providers with the following facilities report some in poor condition: 40 percent with horseshoe pits and baseball fields, 33 percent with softball fields, 30 percent with tennis courts, and 23 percent with volleyball courts.

Forty-eight percent of North Dakota households in Region Four are interested in skiing, ice skating, or sledding. Providers report outdoor ice rinks (35 percent) and cross-country skiing trails (26 percent) as facilities where demand exceeds supply. Half of providers with ski/snowboard slopes, one-third with cross-country ski trails, and one-fifth with sledding/tubing hills report some are in poor condition.

Tertiary Needs

Forty-two percent of the region's households are interested in playing golf. According to 26 percent of providers, demand exceeds supply for pitching/putting ranges; 22 percent say the same of driving ranges.

Demand exceeds supply for skateboard parks, according to 26 percent of providers in Region Four, and disc golf courses, according to 22 percent. Half of providers with skateboard parks report some are in poor condition.

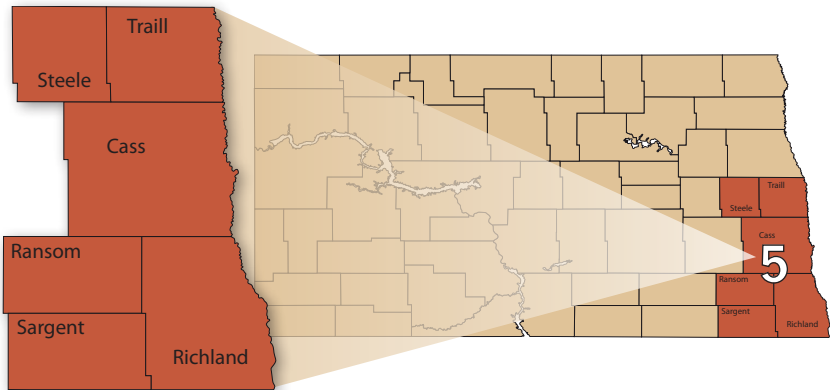
Twenty-six percent of providers report demand exceeds supply for rifle, pistol, trap, or skeet ranges and 22 percent for archery ranges.

Twenty-six percent of Region Four providers report demand exceeds supply for Off-Highway Vehicle (ATV/dirt bike) trails.



Region Five Facility Priorities

Forty-nine percent of providers in Region Five report demand for outdoor recreation facilities exceeds supply, while 93 percent of households say outdoor recreation is important.



PRIMARY NEEDS	SECONDARY NEEDS	TERTIARY NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-Motorized Trails• Campgrounds• Playgrounds/Picnic Areas/Open Space Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sports Courts/Fields• Pools/Beaches/Water Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Golf Courses

Primary Needs

Trails for walking, running, bicycling, or horseback riding are of interest to 58 percent of the region’s households. Forty-five percent are interested in using paved and 43 percent in unpaved walking, jogging, or bicycling trails. Unpaved walking, jogging, or bicycling trails; modern trails; unpaved hiking trails; and semi-modern trails are primary weaknesses. Providers note demand exceeds supply for paved multi-use trails (33 percent), unpaved multi-use trails (27 percent), and semi-modern trails (24 percent).

Forty-seven percent of Region Five households are interested in camping. Primary weaknesses are modern campgrounds, tent sites, and camper/RV sites. Providers noted demand exceeds supply for RV/camper sites (30 percent), modern campgrounds (27 percent), and group campsites (24 percent). Twenty percent of providers with modern campgrounds report some are in poor condition.



Fifty-eight percent of North Dakota households in the region are interested in going to a park, natural area, or green space to use a playground, enjoy nature, or relax, with 47 percent interested in a modern park. Fifty-six percent of households are interested in picnicking, while 49 percent are interested in family sites and 44 percent in group shelters. Providers in the region report demand exceeds supply for a number of facilities: playgrounds (30 percent), modern general purpose parks and recreation areas (27 percent), group picnic shelters (27 percent), and natural areas (21 percent).

Secondary Needs

Forty-eight percent of Region Five households are interested in playing a sport outdoors (other than for a school team). Lighted sports fields or courts are primary weaknesses. Fifty percent of providers with track facilities, 29 percent with horseshoe pits, and 20 percent with tennis courts report some are in poor condition.

Swimming outdoors is of interest to 45 percent of North Dakota households in the region, while swimming beaches on lakes or rivers are primary weaknesses. Thirty-eight percent of providers with swimming bathhouses report some are in poor condition.

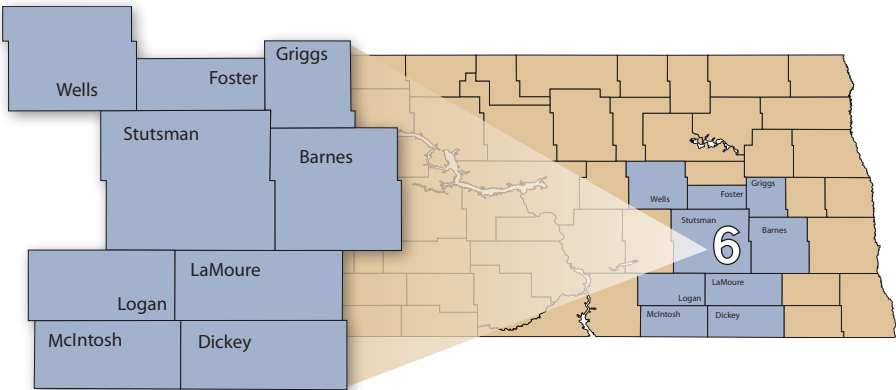
Tertiary Needs

One-quarter of providers with outdoor putting/pitching ranges and one-fifth with nine-hole golf courses report some are in poor condition.



Region Six Facility Priorities

Fifty-four percent of the providers in Region Six report demand for outdoor recreation facilities exceeds supply, and 89 percent of households say outdoor recreation is important.



PRIMARY NEEDS	SECONDARY NEEDS	TERTIARY NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Campgrounds• Non-Motorized Trails• Playgrounds/Picnic Areas/Open Space Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pools/Beaches/Water Access• Canoeing/Kayaking Facilities• Winter Sports Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shooting Sport Facilities• Sports Courts/Fields• Specialty Facilities• Golf Courses• Motorized Trails

Primary Needs

Camping is of interest to 49 percent of Region Six households, with 44 percent interested in modern campgrounds. Camper/ RV camping sites, modern campgrounds, and group camp sites are primary weaknesses. Providers in this region report a number of facilities where demand exceeds supply: RV/camper sites (50 percent), modern campgrounds (43 percent), group campsites (25 percent), RV dump stations (25 percent), and cabin rental sites (21 percent). One out of three providers with semi-modern campgrounds report some are in poor condition.

Fifty-two percent of North Dakota households in the region are interested in using trails for walking, running, bicycling, or horseback riding, while 42 percent are interested in modern trails. Primary weaknesses are modern trails; paved and unpaved walking, jogging, or bicycling trails; and semi-modern trails. Paved multi-use trails (29 percent), unpaved mountain biking trails (21 percent), and primitive trails (21 percent) are facilities where providers say demand exceeds supply. One-quarter of providers with unpaved multi-use trails report some are in poor condition.



Fifty-eight percent of the region's households are interested in going to a park, natural area, or green space to use a playground, enjoy nature, relax, or have a picnic. Forty-nine percent are interested in modern parks or natural areas, while 45 percent of households are interested in picnicking at family sites. Forty-two percent are interested in playing at playgrounds. Thirty-nine percent of providers say demand exceeds supply for modern general purpose parks and recreation areas; this is also the case with playgrounds (36 percent) and family picnic sites and group shelters (25 percent). Twenty-three percent of providers with playgrounds report some are in poor condition.

Secondary Needs

Forty percent of Region Six households are interested in swimming outdoors, while swimming pools and swimming beaches on lakes or rivers are primary weaknesses.

Waterways for canoeing or kayaking are primary weaknesses, and one in four providers with launch ramps report some are in poor condition.

Sledding or tubing areas are primary weaknesses in Region Six, and half of providers with sledding/tubing hills report some are in poor condition.

Tertiary Needs

Outdoor rifle or pistol ranges and outdoor archery ranges are primary weaknesses in the region.

Providers with the following facilities report some are in poor condition: tennis courts (54 percent), basketball courts (27 percent), volleyball courts and horseshoe pits (21 percent), and football fields (20 percent).

Half of providers in Region Six with skateboard parks and 38 percent with disc golf courses report some are in poor condition.

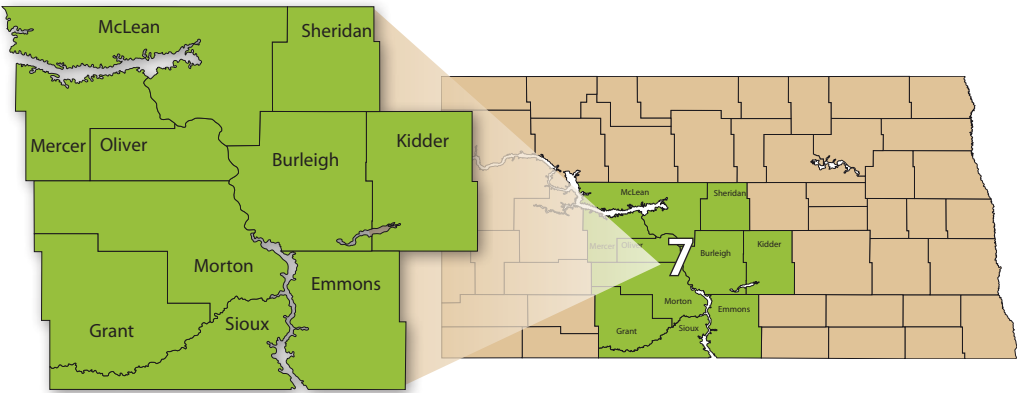
Twenty-one percent of providers say demand for 18-hole golf courses exceeds supply.

Demand for OHV (ATV/dirt bike) trails exceeds supply, according to 21 percent of providers.



Region Seven Facility Priorities

Ninety-two percent of North Dakota households in Region Seven say outdoor recreation is important, while 56 percent of providers report demand for outdoor recreation facilities exceeds supply.



PRIMARY NEEDS	SECONDARY NEEDS	TERTIARY NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campgrounds • Pools/Beaches/Water Access • Non-Motorized Trails • Playgrounds/Picnic Areas/Open Space Parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Sports Facilities • Sports Courts/Fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motorized Trails • Specialty Facilities • Shooting Sport Facilities • Canoeing/Kayaking Facilities

Primary Needs

Camping is of interest to 57 percent of Region Seven households, with 48 percent interested in modern campgrounds. Modern and semi-modern campgrounds, camper/RV sites, and group camp sites are primary weaknesses. According to providers, demand exceeds supply for modern campgrounds (44 percent), RV/camper sites (31 percent), cabin rental sites (31 percent), group campsites (22 percent), and RV dump stations (22 percent).

Forty-four percent of North Dakota households in the region are interested in swimming outdoors, and swimming beaches on lakes or rivers, swimming pools, and specialty pools are primary weaknesses. Twenty-eight percent of providers note demand exceeds supply for swimming beaches, and 22 percent report the same for swimming pools. Sixty percent of providers with swimming bathhouses and 44 percent with swimming pools report some are in poor condition.

Trails for walking, running, bicycling, or horseback riding are of interest to 52 percent of the region’s households, while 47 percent are interested in paved trails and 42 percent in modern trails. Modern and semi-modern trails are primary weaknesses. Providers listed paved multi-use trails (41 percent), unpaved multi-use trails (31 percent), and unpaved mountain biking trails (25 percent) as facilities where demand exceeds supply.



Fifty-seven percent of North Dakota households in the region are interested in going to a park, natural area, or green space to use a playground, enjoy nature, or relax, with 52 percent interested in picnicking. Modern general purpose parks and recreation areas (41 percent), semi-modern general purpose parks and recreation areas (31 percent), playgrounds (28 percent), and multi-purpose open green space or playfields (22 percent) are listed by providers as facilities where demand exceeds supply. Thirty-one percent of providers with playgrounds reports some are in poor condition.

Secondary Needs

Winter activities such as skiing, ice skating, or sledding are of interest to 47 percent of the region's households. Primary weaknesses are sledding or tubing areas. Demand exceeds supply for ice rinks, according to 22 percent of providers.

Forty-five percent of households are interested in playing a sport outdoors (other than for a school team). One-quarter of providers with track facilities and one-fifth of providers with tennis and basketball courts report some are in poor condition.

Tertiary Needs

Demand exceeds supply for OHV (ATV/dirt bike) trails and snowmobile trails, according to 22 percent of Region Seven providers. One-third of providers with OHV (ATV/dirt bike) trails report some are in poor condition.

Twenty-five percent of providers say dog parks and pet exercise areas are facilities where demand exceeds supply. Twenty percent of providers with horseback riding arenas report some are in poor condition.

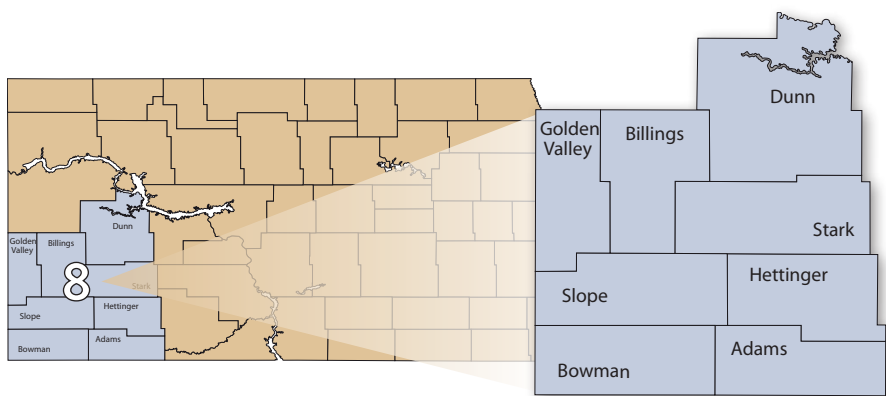
One-quarter of providers in the region with outdoor archery ranges report some are in poor condition.

Twenty percent of providers with canoeing or kayaking launch ramps report some are in poor condition.



Region Eight Facility Priorities

Fifty-seven percent of providers in Region Eight report demand for outdoor recreation facilities exceeds supply, and 93 percent of households say outdoor recreation is important.



PRIMARY NEEDS	SECONDARY NEEDS	TERTIARY NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Campgrounds• Playgrounds/Picnic Areas/Open Space Parks• Pools/Beaches/Water Access• Non-Motorized Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Winter Sports Facilities• Shooting Sport Facilities• Sports Courts/Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Golf Courses• Specialty Facilities

Primary Needs

Sixty-one percent of Region Eight households are interested in camping, while 53 percent are interested in modern campgrounds, 47 percent in camper/RV camping, and 41 percent in group campgrounds. Modern campgrounds, camper/RV camping sites, group campground sites, and rental cabins are primary weaknesses. Twenty-one percent of providers note demand exceeds supply for modern campgrounds. Providers with the following facilities report some are in poor condition: 29 percent with modern campgrounds, 25 percent with tent and RV/camper sites, and 20 percent with semi-modern campgrounds and group camp sites.

Sixty-three percent of North Dakota households in the region are interested in going to a park, natural area, or green space to use a playground, enjoy nature, or relax, with 52 percent interested in modern parks and 48 percent interested in picnicking. Modern parks or natural areas, natural areas to bird watch/enjoy nature, park areas or green spaces, group picnic shelters, and semi-modern parks or natural areas are primary weaknesses. According to 43 percent of providers, demand for group picnic shelters exceeds supply, along with family picnic sites and playgrounds (36 percent) and modern general purpose parks and recreation areas (21 percent). Providers with the following facilities report some are in poor condition: 50 percent with amphitheaters, 40 percent with semi-modern parks/areas, 38 percent with playgrounds, and 29 percent with primitive and modern parks/areas.

Swimming outdoors is of interest to 42 percent of households. Swimming pools, swimming beaches on lakes or rivers, and specialty pools are primary weaknesses. Demand exceeds supply for swimming pools, according to 21 percent of providers.



Forty-five percent of the region's households are interested in using trails for walking, running, bicycling, or horseback riding. Modern trails are primary weaknesses. One in three providers with paved and unpaved multi-use trails report some are in poor condition.

Secondary Needs

Forty-eight percent of North Dakota households in the region are interested in winter activities such as skiing, ice skating, or sledding, with sledding or tubing areas and ice skating or hockey rinks as primary weaknesses. Half of the providers with ice rinks report some are in poor condition.

Outdoor rifle or pistol ranges are of interest to 41 percent of Region Eight households and are also primary weaknesses. One out of four providers with outdoor rifle/pistol/skeet ranges report some are in poor condition.

Fifty-two percent of households are interested in playing a sport outdoors (other than for a school team). Eighty percent of providers with horseshoe pits, 67 percent with tennis courts, and 20 percent with softball fields report some are in poor condition.

Tertiary Needs

Outdoor golf driving or practice ranges are primary weaknesses in Region Eight. Half of the region's providers with nine-hole golf courses report some are in poor conditions.

Half of providers with disc golf courses report some are in poor condition.



Development of the SCORP

In January 2012, the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) contracted with Clearwater Communications to perform survey and planning services to develop the *2013-2017 North Dakota State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* (SCORP). Clearwater Communications subcontracted with Winkelman Consulting to complete the research portion of the project, which included surveys of North Dakota households and outdoor recreation providers to determine demand for and supply of outdoor recreation facilities in the state.

Household Survey Methodology

Sampling Frame & Sample Size

The population for this study consisted of North Dakotans who are 18 years of age or older. An ideal, stratified random-systematic sampling technique was employed in this study to select phone numbers. In other words, approximately 100 interviews were completed within each of the eight planning regions, rather than distributing the interviews proportionately based on the population. From the selected sample of residential and cell phone numbers, 805 interviews were actually completed. However, the data was weighted in a manner that the statewide “weighted” sample represents 800 total respondents.

Collection Technique & Timing

All data was collected through the use of telephone interviews. Data collection was conducted from March 26 to April 15, 2012. The data collection was completed in compliance with specifications established by Winkelman Consulting. Interviewing was supervised and performed by trained personnel from IMP Group Limited.

Margin of Error

The 805 completed questionnaires provide a 95 percent confidence level with an overall minimum and maximum margin of error of ± 2.1 percent and ± 3.5 percent, respectively, in estimating the proportion of the population who possess a certain characteristic or opinion.

Provider Survey Methodology

Sampling Frame & Sample Size

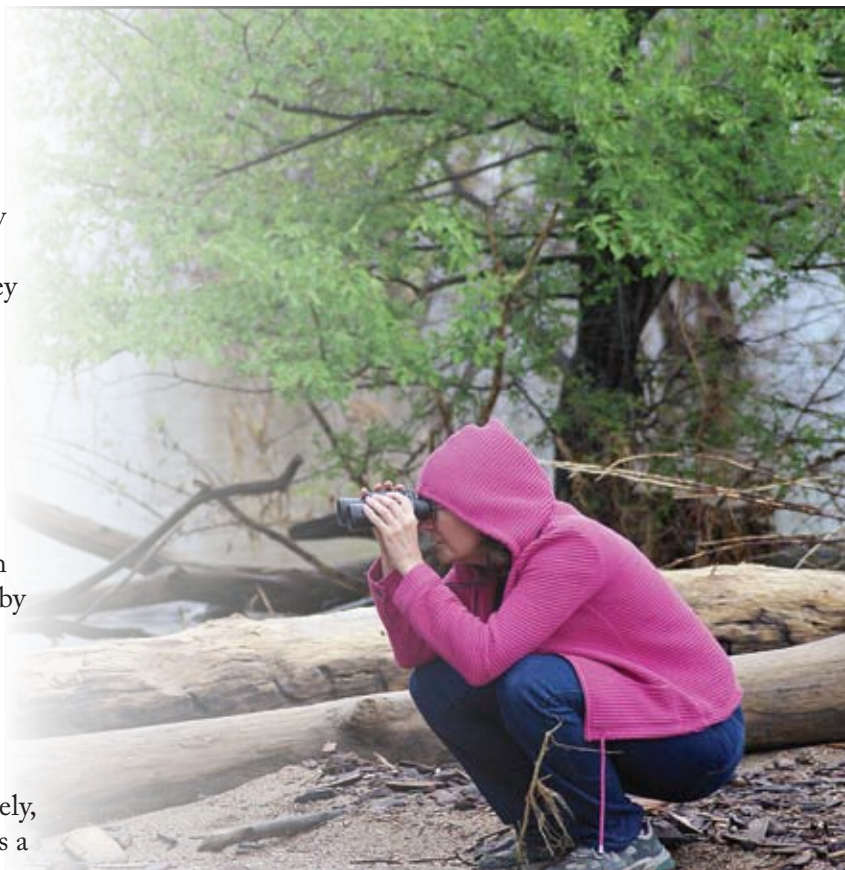
The population for this study consisted of the 315 North Dakotan outdoor recreation providers identified by the NDPRD. No sampling technique was employed in this study to select respondents, since all providers identified by the NDPRD were asked to participate in the study. From the 303 eligible respondents, 200 at least “returned” a survey and 192 provided “responses” to the survey, resulting in a “return rate” of 66.0 percent and a “response rate” of 63.4 percent.

Collection Technique & Timing

All data was collected through the use of mail surveys. However, respondents were given options to reply by mail, email, and fax. Data collection was conducted from March 9 to April 27, 2012. The data collection was administered by Winkelman Consulting.

Margin of Error

The 192 completed questionnaires provide a 95 percent confidence level with an overall minimum and maximum margin of error of ± 2.6 percent and ± 4.3 percent, respectively, in estimating the proportion of the population who possess a certain characteristic or opinion.



SCORP Stakeholder Input

Based on the survey results provided by Winkelman Consulting, the NDPRD and Clearwater Communications developed the SCORP implementation plan and outdoor recreation facility priorities statewide and regionally. Input on the plan was provided by 17 stakeholders identified by the NDPRD:

- Garrison Diversion Conservancy District
- Maah Daah Hey Trail Association
- North Country Trail Association
- North Dakota Cycling Federation
- North Dakota Department of Commerce Tourism Division
- North Dakota Department of Health
- North Dakota Department of Transportation
- North Dakota Dirt Riders
- North Dakota Forest Service
- North Dakota Game and Fish Department
- North Dakota Recreation & Park Association
- Snowmobile North Dakota
- State Historical Society of North Dakota
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Omaha District
– Garrison Dam & Lake Sakakawea
- U.S. Department of Agriculture – Forest Service – Dakota Prairie Grasslands
- U.S. Department of Interior – Bureau of Reclamation – Dakotas Area Office
- U.S. Department of Interior – National Park Service

SCORP Public Comment

As the final step in the development process, the *2013–2107 North Dakota State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* was posted on the NDPRD website for a 10-day period for public comment. Recommendations received from the public were incorporated into the final draft of the plan.

SCORP Components

Three distinct publications were developed as part of this project. The primary publication is the *2013–2017 North Dakota State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*. The two additional components are *Recreational Trail Needs* and *Wetlands Priorities*, an electronic-only publication.



Additional Information

Electronic versions of the *2013–2017 North Dakota State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*, as well as the *Recreational Trail Needs* and *Wetlands Priorities*, are available on the NDPRD website at www.parkrec.nd.gov.

Detailed information from the North Dakota household and outdoor recreation provider surveys, including regional data, is also available online.

For more information, contact the NDPRD at 701-328-5357 or parkrec@nd.gov.



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